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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD 25X1A5a1

10 April 1962

SUBJECT: Visit of [REDACTED] Hycon Manufacturing Company and [REDACTED] of Ryan Aviation with Dr. Herbert Scoville, DD/R, and [REDACTED] SATA/DPD, 4 April 1962. 25X1A5a1

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1. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the Agency with certain proposals which have been made to the Department of Defense for the development of drones for reconnaissance purposes. At the present time these proposals are under active discussion at senior levels of the Defense Department with some differences of opinion between DDR&E (Dr. Harold Brown) and Dr. Charyk's office. The primary focus of DOD interest has been for possible tactical applications rather than peacetime intelligence. However, it was thought that the Agency might be consulted prior to a decision being made.

2. The proposal falls into three general categories:

a. A vehicle which would have a range of 500 to 700 miles at altitudes of approximately 70,000 at mach .75 which would be relatively cheap and could perhaps be available in three to four months;

b. A 3500 nautical mile version with essentially the same characteristics which could be available in approximately thirteen months; and

c. A drone which would operate at 125,000 feet at mach 4.0 for a range of 3900 miles. This would require a minimum of 36 months to develop, would involve many of the difficult development problems being faced in other programs and would be very expensive.

The above are contractor estimates and are undoubtedly optimistic.

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3. They also reported on some research done in the Anti-Radar field but it is not believed that this is very advanced by our standards.

4. I expressed some interest in a short range, low vulnerability vehicle which might have application to our objective. Intermediate models might also be developed but it did not appear feasible to achieve low vulnerability, ie. high altitude, high speed performance, which would be required for overflight, without major development programs.

5. No commitments were made during the discussion and it is not believed that the Agency should express any real interest in these developments if we are questioned by the Department of Defense. We are continuing to look into other drone programs which might have some application against Kamchatka or other shallow penetration targets of high priority.

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